

What is claimed is:

1. A method of making an umbrella cover comprising the steps of:

folding a substantially octagonal unitary sheet of fabric, the sheet having eight sides, each adjacent two sides meeting at a corner, in half along a line extending approximately from a midpoint of a first side to a midpoint of a second side, the second side opposed to the first side;

cutting a slit at each corner, each slit extending from the respective corner to an apex toward, but in spaced relation from, a centerpoint of the sheet, the slit substantially isosceles triangular in shape;

joining, for each slit, opposing sides thereof together to form darts; and affixing piping along the eight sides.

2. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the sheet comprises a nylon material.

3. The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step, prior to the folding step, of folding a substantially square sheet of fabric in half to form two substantially equal-area rectangles, and cutting off each free corner to form the octagonal sheet of fabric.

4. The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step, prior to the folding step, of cutting corners from a substantially square sheet of fabric to form the octagonal sheet of fabric.

5. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the slit has a length approximately one-quarter a length between a corner and the centerpoint.

6. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the joining step comprises sewing the slit sides together.

7. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the piping comprises a same material as the fabric sheet.

8. The method recited in Claim 7, wherein the fabric sheet and the piping material comprise a nylon material.

9. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the affixing step comprises sewing the piping around a periphery of the cover.

10. An umbrella cover made by the process of Claim 1.

11. A method of making an umbrella comprising the steps of:
folding a substantially octagonal unitary sheet of fabric, the sheet having eight sides, each adjacent two sides meeting at a corner, in half along a line extending approximately from a midpoint of a first side to a midpoint of a second side, the second side opposed to the first side;

cutting a slit at each corner, the each extending from the respective corner to an apex toward, but in spaced relation from, a centerpoint of the sheet, the slit substantially isosceles triangular in shape;

joining, for each slit, opposing sides thereof together to form darts;

5 affixing piping along the eight sides; and

affixing each dart to a frame rib.

12. The method recited in Claim 11, wherein the sheet comprises a nylon material.

10 **13.** The method recited in Claim 11, further comprising the step, prior to the folding step, of folding a substantially square sheet of fabric in half to form two substantially equal-area rectangles, and cutting off each free corner to form the octagonal sheet of fabric.

15 **14.** The method recited in Claim 11, further comprising the step, prior to the folding step, of cutting corners from a substantially square sheet of fabric to form the octagonal sheet of fabric.

20 **15.** The method recited in Claim 11, wherein the slit has a length approximately one-quarter a length between a corner and the centerpoint.

16. The method recited in Claim 11, wherein the joining step comprises sewing the slit sides together.

17. The method recited in Claim 11, wherein the piping comprises a same material as the fabric sheet.

18. The method recited in Claim 17, wherein the fabric sheet and the piping material comprise a nylon material.

19. The method recited in Claim 11, wherein the piping affixing step comprises sewing the piping around a periphery of the cover.

20. An umbrella made by the process of Claim 11.